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DEC 22 2004

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DEC 22 2004

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
TC 3600

In re application of:

Robert Groat, et al.
Application No. 09/775,469
Filed: February 5, 2001
For: FINANCIAL STATUS STORAGE SYSTEM

DECISION ON REQUEST
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
ATTORNEY

This is a decision on the request filed on February 19, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

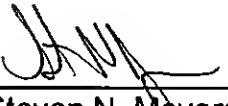
The request is NOT APPROVED.

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney is not accepted in the above-identified application, because the request lacks condition B), above.

Regarding condition B), the reason "At the direction of the new owners/managers of the Applicant" is not appropriate since it is not clear that the client initiated the transfer, or that the client knowingly or freely assents to the transfer to new counsel. A proper reason for withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) subsections (1)-(4) or subsections (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided.



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SNM/rwg: 12/15/04